

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A transport/storage container
2 for heat-generating nuclear-fuel elements, the container
3 comprising:

4 spaced metallic inner and outer side walls defining
5 between the walls an annular outer space extending along an axis
6 and having upper and lower ends and an inner space within the inner
7 wall, the inner space being adapted to hold the nuclear-fuel
8 elements;

9 a cover at the upper end closing the outer space;

10 a floor at the lower end closing the outer space;

11 a plurality of axially extending, axially open and
12 radially closed, and angularly spaced heat-conducting metal tubes
13 each having an inner wall section bearing with radial inward
14 prestress in surface contact on an outer surface of the inner side
15 wall and an outer wall section bearing with radial outward
16 prestress in surface contact on an inner surface of the outer side
17 wall;

18 a filler mass [[in]] substantially filling the outer
19 space between the tubes.

1 2. (original) The transport/storage container defined
2 in claim 1 wherein the tubes have radially extending wall sections
3 that are elastically deformed.

3. (canceled)

1 4. (original) The transport/storage container defined
2 in claim 1 wherein the tubes are of quadrilateral cross section.

1 5. (currently amended) The transport/storage container
2 defined in claim 1 wherein each tube extends generally a full axial
3 length of the outer space.

1 6. (original) The transport/storage container defined
2 in claim 1 wherein each of the inner and outer wall sections has a
3 curvature complementary to a curvature of the respective inner and
4 outer side wall.

1 7. (currently amended) ~~The transport/storage container~~
2 ~~defined in claim 1 wherein the tubes are angularly equispaced, the~~
3 ~~container further comprising~~ A transport/storage container for
4 heat-generating nuclear-fuel elements, the container comprising:
5 spaced inner and outer side walls defining an annular
6 space extending along an axis and having upper and lower ends;
7 a cover at the upper end;
8 a floor at the lower end;
9 a plurality of axially extending and angularly equispaced
10 heat-conducting metal tubes each having an inner wall section

11 bearing in surface contact on an outer surface of the inner side
12 wall and an outer wall section bearing in surface contact on an
13 inner surface of the outer side wall;

14 a filler mass in the space; and
15 axially extending and angularly spaced spacer strips
16 fixed to the outer surface of the inner wall between the tubes.

1 8. (original) The transport/storage container defined
2 in claim 1 wherein the tubes are of generally rectangular section.

1 9. (currently amended) ~~The transport/storage container~~
2 ~~defined in claim 1 wherein~~ A transport/storage container for heat-
3 generating nuclear-fuel elements, the container comprising:

4 spaced inner and outer side walls defining an annular
5 space extending along an axis and having upper and lower ends;

6 a cover at the upper end;

7 a floor at the lower end;

8 a plurality of axially extending and angularly spaced
9 heat-conducting metal tubes each having an inner wall section
10 bearing in surface contact on an outer surface of the inner side
11 wall and an outer wall section bearing in surface contact on an
12 inner surface of the outer side wall, the inner and outer surfaces
13 [[have]] having a release-agent coating;

14 a filler mass in the space.

1 10. (original) The transport/storage container defined
2 in claim 9 wherein the coating is an epoxy lacquer.

1 11. (currently amended) ~~The transport/storage container~~
2 ~~defined in claim 1 wherein the floor comprises~~ A transport/storage
3 container for heat-generating nuclear-fuel elements, the container
4 comprising:

5 spaced inner and outer side walls defining an annular
6 space extending along an axis and having upper and lower ends;

7 a cover at the upper end;

8 a floor at the lower end and comprising an inner floor
9 panel and an outer floor panel spaced axially therefrom [[and]];

10 a plurality of axially extending and angularly spaced
11 heat-conducting metal tubes each having an inner wall section
12 bearing in surface contact on an outer surface of the inner side
13 wall and an outer wall section bearing in surface contact on an
14 inner surface of the outer side wall, the tubes each [[have]]
15 having a pair of generally radially and axially extending wall
16 sections; , the container further comprising:

17 L-shaped connector strips each having one end fixed to an
18 outer surface of the inner floor panel and an opposite end; and

19 respective clips securing the opposite ends to the
20 radially extending wall sections of the tubes; and

21 a filler mass in the space.